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## New Jersey Chapter

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AB-167 (Sub-No. 1185X)



July 8, 2006

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, NW, Room 711  
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Mr. Williams:

Attached is a resolution passed today by the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club regarding the request of Conrail to abandon portions of the Camden and Amboy Railroad in Washington and Hamilton Townships, New Jersey. The resolution is signed by our Chapter Chair, Kenneth R. Johanson.

We feel strongly that the request of Conrail to abandon this portion of the Camden and Amboy Railroad should be denied, and that the full length of this track should be rail banked and used for hiking and biking until the need becomes apparent that this part of New Jersey would benefit from a light rail or other rail system.

Sincerely,

*Bonnie Tillery*

Bonnie Tillery  
Secretary  
New Jersey Chapter Sierra Club

CC: Mr. John K. Enright  
Consolidated Rail Corporation  
1000 Howard Boulevard, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054

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**Resolution in support of "rail banking" the Camden and Amboy Railroad line  
(Robbinsville Industrial Track) in Washington and Hamilton Townships**

Whereas, the Camden and Amboy Railroad line running through Washington and Hamilton Townships is near the new Washington Township Town Center with heavy concentrations of residential development; and,

Whereas, this is a prime location for a hiking and biking trail along its full length, without fragmentation; and,

Whereas, this line is of historic significance as the first rail line in New Jersey and the third in the United States, with a monument in commemoration of this line and the John Bull steam engine (on display at the Smithsonian Institute) in the historic City of Bordentown, New Jersey; and,

Whereas, this historic line was the site of significant innovations in rail development, many of which are still in use today; and,

Whereas, the Sierra Club supports public transportation and this line could be "rail banked" for future use as a light rail line connecting the light rail in Bordentown with points north, thus alleviating traffic, pollution and congestion along the soon to be heavily developed Route 130 corridor; and,


Whereas, the Sierra Club is opposed to the use of eminent domain as a means to promote sprawl development, with some properties along this line threatened with confiscation through eminent domain; and,

Whereas, development of the Robbinsville Industrial Track would destroy wetlands that recharge the aquifers and help prevent flooding;

Therefore, be it resolved that the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club supports "rail banking" of the full length of the Robbinsville Industrial Track and petitions the Surface Transportation Board to deny the request of Conrail to abandon this portion of the Camden and Amboy Railroad.

Copies of this resolution will be submitted to Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K St, NW, Rm 711, Washington, DC 20423; John K. Enright, Consolidated Rail Corporation, 1000 Howard Blvd, 4<sup>th</sup> Flr, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054; Mayor Fried, Washington Township; Mayor Gilmore, Hamilton Township.

July 8, 2006

  
Chair, New Jersey Chapter  
Sierra Club